

NCPV Hotline — Week of March 26-30, 2007

Weekly News Items

Some of the following news items are available as Adobe Acrobat PDFs. [Download Adobe Reader.](#)

The National Center for Photovoltaics (NCPV), the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL's) center for PV research maintains an international communications system called the NCPV Hotline. The Hotline increases knowledge and awareness of PV industry and research happenings. Hotline participants receive important news items via email related to PV activities around the world. The contents have been relatively uncensored, because we depend on the good judgment of the contributors to separate fact from rumor.

(Links may expire)

Current and archived NCPV Hotline issues <link to http://www.nrel.gov/pv/news_hotline.html>

Disclaimer <link to http://www.nrel.gov/pv/hotline/news_hotline_disclaimer.html>

Subscribe/Unsubscribe: Email name, organization, and e-mail address to [Carol Riordan](mailto:Carol_Riordan@nrel.gov) <mailto:Carol_Riordan@nrel.gov> at NREL

3-26-07 REC ASA Polysilicon Supply to SUMCO

Renewable Energy Corporation entered into a long-term agreement for the supply of polysilicon to SUMCO TECHXIV Corporation. Story at RenewableEnergyAccess:

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47876>

REC: <http://www.recgroup.no/>

SUMCO: <http://www.komsil.co.jp/en/>

3-26-07 Container Terminal Solar Power System, Japan

Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd. announced that the solar power generation system – called the Tokyo International Container Terminal Solar Power Station – started operation in March. The panel supplier is Sharp Electronics. Story at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsASPR155.htm>

Sharp Electronics: <http://www.sharp.co.jp/>

3-26-07 Bigelow Company's PV

The Connecticut Clean Energy Fund approved a grant of \$777,000 to the R.C. Bigelow Company to defray approximately 55% of the cost of installing a 171-kW PV system at the company's Fairfield, Connecticut headquarters facility. Story at RenewableEnergyAccess:

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/partner/story?id=47868> or <http://tinyurl.com/2j9hwI>

Connecticut Clean Energy Fund: <http://www.ctinnovations.com/funding/cccf/about.php>

Connecticut Innovations: <http://www.ctinnovations.com/>

3-26-07 Cal State, Fresno PV System

Chevron Energy Solutions of San Francisco is building a 1 MW PV system at California State University, Fresno, comprising 4,000 PV panels on top of 10 metal structures. Story at:

<http://www.fresnobee.com/170/story/37208.html>

Chevron Energy Solutions: <http://www.chevronenergy.com/>

3-26-07 More on Hall's Warehouse PV System

Ted Turner's new venture, the renewable energy company DT Solar, is behind the rooftop PV project with 4,000 solar panels that Turner recently visited at Hall's Warehouse Corp. facility. Story at:

<http://www.statesman.com/business/content/business/stories/statesmanhomes/03/25/25turner.html?cxtyp e=rss&cxsvc=7&cxcat=3> or <http://tinyurl.com/ys67n3>

DT Solar: <http://www.dtsolar.com/solar/>

3-26-07 Solar EnerTech MOU with Indian Company

Solar EnerTech Corp. announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Khandelwal Solar Power Limited of Noida, India. The MOU establishes the framework toward the formation of a strategic partnership aimed at developing product sales in India as well as opening additional markets throughout Asia. Information at:

<http://www.marketwatch.com/News/Story/Story.aspx?guid=%7B038DEC88%2D0EA2%2D4E23%2D9B2D%2DE8CD74DB2A5C%7D&siteid=mktw&dist=nbk&symb> or <http://tinyurl.com/yqmok7>

Solar EnerTech: <http://www.solarenertech.com/>

3-26-07 Suntech Analyst and Investor Day Messages

Suntech Power Holdings Co., Ltd. hosted an Analyst and Investor Day in Hong Kong, with guests from the Asian, European and U.S. investment communities. For coverage of key takeaway messages, see:

<http://www.marketwatch.com/News/Story/Story.aspx?guid=%7BEB5D0D41%2D8CAD%2D46A1%2D994D%2DFDA8937C690D%7D&siteid=mktw&dist=nbk&symb> or <http://tinyurl.com/yvp5t9>

Suntech: <http://www.suntech-power.com/>

3-26-07 ICP Partnership

ICP Solar Technologies announced that it has extended its partnership with Atlas Trailer Coach Products.

More at RenewableEnergyAccess: <http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/partner/story?id=47874>

or <http://tinyurl.com/2lnms4>

ICP: <http://www.icpoem.com/>

3-26-07 Last Few Seats, PHOTON's Conferences [Michael Schmela]

About a week before PHOTON's Photovoltaic Technology Show (<http://www.photon-expo.com/>) is taking place in Munich Germany, 4-5 April 2007, two of the three conferences being held in conjunction with the trade fair are almost sold out. Around 700 people have registered for the 4th Solar Silicon Conference set for 3 April (http://www.photon-expo.com/en/pts_2007_europe/ssc_2007.htm), and about 650 have signed up for the 1st Production Equipment Conference on 4 April (http://www.photon-expo.com/en/pts_2007_europe/pvpec_2007.htm).

The 1st PV Investors Conference is set for 5 April. At the Investors Conference, PHOTON Consulting will present the results of its new report, "The True Cost of Solar Power: 10 Cent/kWh by 2010", which will be available as of April (http://www.photon-expo.com/en/pts_2007_europe/pvic_2007.htm).

3-26-07 Innovalight Vice President of Business Development

Andy Skumanich has joined Innovalight as Vice President of Business Development. Andy comes from Applied Materials Solar Energy Division where he was responsible for strategic marketing and business development for Applied Materials' PV program. More at Solarbuzz:

<http://www.solarbuzz.com/news/newsNACO544.htm>

Innovalight: <http://www.innovalight.com/>

3-26-07 The Green Power Network Financial Opportunities

For The Green Power Network Financial Opportunities announcements, see:

<http://www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/financial/>

3-26-07 REEEP Proposals

The Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Partnership is inviting proposals for projects in renewable energy and energy efficiency and expects to support 30 projects with an average of 100,000 Euros. More information at RenewableEnergyAccess:

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47847>

REEEP: <http://www.reeep.org/index.cfm?articleid=1617>

3-26-07 Solar Power 2007 Call for Presentations

The Solar Power 2007 Call for Presentations, with an April 6 deadline, is available at:

<http://www.solarpowerconference.com/conference/speakers/>

3-27-07 Solar Farm, Spain

Spanish company, SOLARTIA, a project developer and solar farm operator, has awarded a contract to aleo solar AG to supply 24,000 modules corresponding to an output of approximately 4 MW for a new solar farm in Viana in the northern Spanish province of Navarre. This contract supplies almost half of all the solar modules needed for the 9 MW solar farm. Story at Solarbuzz:

<http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsEUCO385.htm>

aleo solar: <http://www.aleosolar.de/>

SOLARTIA: <http://www.solartia.com/clientes/index.php>

3-27-07 Q-Cells Results and Expansion

Q-Cells AG confirmed its results for fiscal year 2006 and announced more rapid expansion of production capacity in its core business. Press at:

<http://www.marketwatch.com/News/Story/Story.aspx?guid=%7B29BFCBB7%2DCB39%2D4FD9%2D957D%2DD52A24705B2B%7D&siteid=mktw&dist=nbk&symb> or <http://tinyurl.com/29zmf2>

Q-Cells: http://www.q-cells.com/cmadmin_2_474_0.html

3-27-07 Flexible Solar Cell Manufacturing Technology

See the press, "New Technology for Manufacturing Flexible Solar Cells" featuring the University of Delaware's Institute of Energy Conversion, at:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/03/070326131312.htm>

<http://www.udel.edu/PR/UDaily/2007/mar/solar032307.html>

IEC: <http://www.udel.edu/iec/>

3-27-07 Solar America Initiative, Component Prototype and Pilot-Scale Production: SAI PV Module Incubator Funding Opportunity Announcement

The Component Prototype and Pilot-Scale Production Phase of R&D will emphasize research and development of PV component prototypes with full functionality, produced in pilot-scale operations. For information on this opportunity, see the following Web pages:

http://www.eere.energy.gov/solar/solar_america/component_prototype_pilotscale_foa_032607.html or <http://tinyurl.com/28qrw5>

http://www.nrel.gov/business_opportunities/solicitations_rfps.html

FedBizOpps: <http://www.fedbizopps.gov/> Quick Search on National Renewable Energy Laboratory – click go, then go to the title to reach:

<http://www.fbo.gov/spg/DOE/NREL/NR/LOI%2DNo%2E%2DRAT%2D7%2D77015/listing.html> or

<http://tinyurl.com/yvdz32>

<http://www.fbo.gov/spg/DOE/NREL/NR/LOI%2DNo%2E%2DRAT%2D7%2D77015/SynopsisP.html> or

<http://tinyurl.com/25ycmq>

Solar America Initiative: http://www.eere.energy.gov/solar/solar_america/

3-27-07 Ascent Solar Air Force Contract

Ascent Solar Technologies, Inc. announced that it has been granted a contract modification from the US Air Force Research Laboratory to continue development of flexible high-temperature substrates for monolithically integrated CIGS PV. Story at:

<http://www.marketwatch.com/News/Story/Story.aspx?guid=%7B12AD37A1%2D741E%2D407C%2D97AB%2D2EB84CE261A8%7D&siteid=mktw&dist=nbk&symb> or <http://tinyurl.com/2ntxht>

Ascent Solar: <http://www.ascentsolar.com/>

3-27-07 Nanosolar CFO, Executive and Board Advisor

Nanosolar Inc. announced that James McNicholas has joined the company as Chief Financial Officer. Also, the company announced that Doug Norby is working with Nanosolar as an executive and board advisor. Press at:

<http://www.marketwatch.com/News/Story/Story.aspx?guid=%7B63FF7B38%2D0A48%2D4ACA%2DB94B%2DF160A8B5F947%7D&siteid=mktw&dist=nbk&symb> or <http://tinyurl.com/25x7wm>

Nanosolar: <http://www.nanosolar.com/>

Other press: <http://sanfrancisco.bizjournals.com/sanfrancisco/stories/2007/03/26/daily6.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/2ldbyk>

3-27-07 More on Hoku Polysilicon Facility, Idaho

Hoku Materials held a groundbreaking ceremony for its polysilicon production plant in Pocatello. Press at:

<http://www.marketwatch.com/News/Story/Story.aspx?guid=%7BB6CBE13F%2D044F%2D4794%2D826F%2D730B1331F768%7D&siteid=mktw&dist=nbk&symb> or <http://tinyurl.com/32n9yu>

Hoku: <http://www.hokuscientific.com/>

3-27-07 Xantrex Inverters in Spain

Xantrex Technology announced that its inverters have been installed by Grupo Enerpal for an 800-kW PV project in Brazatortas, Spain. Story at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsEUPR336.htm>

Xantrex: <http://www.xantrex.com/>

Enerpal: <http://www.enerpal.com/>

3-27-07 MGI Electronics Order

MGI Electronics, LLC announced that it has received an order for over \$1.8 million from one of the world's leading solar cell manufacturers. This order is for 20 systems of MGI's Sonora Series, on top of an initial purchase made earlier of \$2.1 million for the same equipment. Press at:

<http://www.marketwatch.com/News/Story/Story.aspx?guid=%7BFA219F1E%2DE653%2D4713%2DBC3B%2DAA6A90FB0598%7D&siteid=mktw&dist=nbk&symb> or <http://tinyurl.com/2rydru>

MGI Electronics: <http://www.mgielectronics.com/>

3-27-07 More on Photowatt IPO

According to this press, ATS Automation Tooling Systems Inc., in consultation with BMO Capital Markets and UBS Investment Bank, announced that it is withdrawing its Initial Public Offering of shares in

Photowatt Technologies Inc. Press at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsNACO546.htm>

ATS Automation Tooling Systems: <http://www.atsautomation.com/>

3-27-07 Mount Wachusett Community College PV, Massachusetts

For coverage of the new 100-kW PV system at Mount Wachusett Community College, paid for through IRS Clean Renewable Energy Bonds and a grant from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative – Renewable Energy Trust, see:

<http://www.telegram.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070325/NEWS/703250461> or

<http://tinyurl.com/2al4jc>

IRS: <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=164423,00.html>

http://www.irs.gov/irb/2006-10_IRB/ar07.html

Massachusetts Technology Collaborative: <http://www.mtpc.org/renewableenergy/index.htm>

3-27-07 PHOTON International Articles

See several March 2007 news articles at PHOTON International: <http://www.photon-magazine.com/>

3-27-07 Solar Power Conference

See more on the Solar Power Conference and Expo, Call for Presenters, at RenewableEnergyAccess:

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/partner/story?id=47886> or <http://tinyurl.com/2t6t4u>

<http://www.solarpowerconference.com/conference/speakers/>

3-27-07 Cleantech 2007

TechConnect.org, producer of Cleantech 2007, announced its Early Stage Ventures Conference Program set for 23-24 May 2007 at the Santa Clara Conference Center in California. More at:

<http://www.marketwatch.com/News/Story/Story.aspx?guid=%7B8D941692%2D2F34%2D4302%2DBA35%2DB6222688A4F2%7D&siteid=mktw&dist=nbk&symb> or <http://tinyurl.com/2net4s>

Cleantech 2007: <http://www.techconnect.org/Cleantech2007/participate/showcase/>

3-27-07 Satisfaction with Green Homes

See the story "Home sweet green home, Most buyers of resource-efficient homes say they're more than satisfied", which covers results of a survey conducted by the National Association of Home Builders and McGraw-Hill Construction. Press at:

<http://www.marketwatch.com/News/Story/Story.aspx?guid={1539C4AB-F4E7-49A4-99D1-83555EC8E27A}&siteid=mktw&dist=nbk> or <http://tinyurl.com/yublmf>

In related solar news...

3-27-07 Solel Solar Thermal Receiver Systems for FPL

Solel Solar Systems, Ltd. announced that it has signed a new contract with FPL Energy, LLC, for the supply of thousands of its advanced solar thermal receiver systems. Press at:

<http://www.marketwatch.com/News/Story/Story.aspx?guid=%7B425D273A%2D3E52%2D45E6%2DB8A5%2DD99992002EE3%7D&siteid=mktw&dist=nbk&symb> or <http://tinyurl.com/2bcdbj>

Solel: <http://www.solel.com/>

3-28-07 General Electric, SunPower/PowerLight, Catavento 11-MW Solar Plant, Portugal

General Electric, SunPower/PowerLight, and Catavento dedicated an 11-MW, 150-acre solar power plant in Serpa, Portugal. Catavento, Producao de Energia Eolica SA built the plant. GE Energy Financial Services financed and purchased the project in a \$75 million transaction last year. PowerLight designed, deployed, operates and maintains the plant, comprising PV modules from SunPower, Sanyo, Sharp and Suntech. Press at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsEUPR337.htm> and MSN:

<http://news.moneycentral.msn.com/provider/providerarticle.aspx?feed=AP&Date=20070328&ID=6678973> or <http://tinyurl.com/392bkn>

GE Financial Services: <http://www.ge.com/en/financial/>

<http://www.geenergyfinancialservices.com/SerpaSolarPlant/>

SunPower/PowerLight: <http://www.powerlight.com/>

<http://www.sunpowercorp.com/home.html>

Catavento: <http://www.catavento.pt/>

3-28-07 Akeena Solar Advisory Board

Akeena Solar, Inc. announced the formation of an advisory board with the appointment of Joe Abrams, consultant, and Steve Westly, CEO and founder of The Westly Group. The board was created to counsel management on a wide range of strategic and marketplace issues, including business development and growth as well as economic, political and cultural initiatives. Press at RenewableEnergyAccess:

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/partner/story?id=47927> or <http://tinyurl.com/2ur8xy>

Akeena Solar: <http://www.akeena.net/cm/Home.html>

3-28-07 ARISE Equipment Supply Contract

ARISE Technologies Corporation announced that its wholly owned German subsidiary, ARISE Technologies Deutschland GmbH, has entered into an equipment supply contract with OTB Solar BV of the Netherlands. Under the agreement, OTB will design, deliver and commission manufacturing and handling equipment for the initial production line of ARISE's planned 80 MW PV cell production facility in Bischofswerda, Germany. More at:

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/March2007/28/c7486.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/2nmotw>

ARISE Technologies: <http://www.arisetech.com/>

3-28-07 Phonix SonnenStrom Dividend Proposal

The Supervisory Board of Phonix SonnenStrom AG approved the intention of the Board of Directors to put forward a proposal for the payment of dividends. Press from Phonix SonnenStrom:

<http://www.sonnenstromag.de/index.php?entryid=154>

Phonix SonnenStrom: <http://www.sonnenstromag.de/index.php?entryid=109>

3-28-07 More on Chevron, California University 1-MW Project

Construction has begun on a 1-MW project being built by Chevron Energy Solutions at California State University, Fresno. See the story at RenewableEnergyAccess:

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47908>

Chevron Energy Solutions: <http://www.chevronenergy.com/>

3-28-07 Carmanah Solar Power Systems for Florida Roadways

Carmanah has received an order for several units of its stand-alone MAPPS solar power systems from a Florida State roadways contracting company. Press at:

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/partner/story?id=47905> or <http://tinyurl.com/2e5ktu>

Carmanah: <http://www.solarforindustry.com/>

<http://www.carmanah.com/>

3-28-07 USDA Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Grants

USDA is accepting applications for fiscal year 2007 to purchase renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements for agriculture producers and rural small businesses in eligible rural areas. More at RenewableEnergyAccess:

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47899>

Section 9006: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farbill/index.html>

Notice of Funds Availability (pdf):

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-5198.pdf>

3-28-07 Colorado Renewables

Colorado Governor Bill Ritter signed a bill into law that requires Colorado large investor-owned utilities to get 20% of their electricity from renewable sources by 2020, and municipal utilities and rural electric providers to achieve a goal of 10% by 2020. See the press at:

http://www.rockymountainnews.com/drmn/energy/article/0,2777,DRMN_23914_5446747,00.html or

<http://tinyurl.com/26vlpf>

http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_5534704

<http://www.colorado.gov/governor/press/march07/new-energy-economy.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/25h83y>

3-28-07 SunWize Dealer Support Expansion

SunWize Technologies Inc. announced expansion of their dealer support team with the addition of John White and Helga Canfield. Press at RenewableEnergyAccess:

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/partner/story?id=47889> or <http://tinyurl.com/326web>

SunWize: <http://www.sunwize.com/>

3-28-07 California Solar Initiative Webinar

For information on SunPower Consulting™'s CSI Webinar set for 29-30 March, visit the Website at:

<http://www.sunpowerconsultingllc.com/webinar.html>

3-28-07 Renewables for Nepal

Ambassadors of Denmark and Norway signed an agreement with the Nepali government pledging 3 billion Nepali rupees in grant assistance for renewable energy programs in the country over a 5-year period. Press through RenewableEnergyAccess

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47881> at:

<http://peacejournalism.com/ReadArticle.asp?ArticleID=17597>

3-28-07 More on Massachusetts' Colleges Solar Energy Project Grants

Three state colleges in Massachusetts were recently awarded Clean Renewable Energy Bonds from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service to be used to for PV systems at the schools. Story and web links at

RenewableEnergyAccess: <http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47913>

3-28-07 More on The Green Power Network, Financial Opportunities

See "RFPs: Green Power Network Lists Financial Opportunities" at RenewableEnergyAccess:

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47915>

The Green Power Network: <http://www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/financial/>

In related solar news...

3-28-07 Solar Power Plant, Sicily

Italy is working to implement a plan to build a solar power plant on the east coast of Sicily, with the gas/solar plant named Archimedes. Press at:

http://www.playfuls.com/news_005934_Italy_Plans_Solar_Power_Plant.html or <http://tinyurl.com/246n9o>

3-29-07 Solar America Initiative Market Transformation Awards

The U.S. Department of Energy has competitively selected organizations for the first of several market transformation awards under the President's Solar America Initiative. These market transformation activities will complement the recently announced Technology Pathway Partnerships R&D awards and aim to lower market barriers to commercialization of solar technology. See the DOE Progress Alert at:

http://www.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts/progress_alert.asp?aid=224 or

<http://tinyurl.com/25ny6v>

Solar America Initiative Market Transformation:

http://www.eere.energy.gov/solar/solar_america/market_transformation.html or <http://tinyurl.com/yr3qdu>

and

http://www.eere.energy.gov/solar/solar_america/market_transformation_sai_032707.html or

<http://tinyurl.com/3b9pkx>

Solar America Initiative: http://www.eere.energy.gov/solar/solar_america/

3-29-07 Solar Outlook, Navigant Consulting

The Photovoltaic Service Program at Navigant Consulting has published a "Pre-Release" of its quarterly PV industry newsletter, Solar Outlook. The feature article in the release is an analysis of 2006 PV technology shipments by executive editor Paula Mints. This release also includes commentary by Dr. Hermann Scheer and a review of his new book, "Energy Autonomy: The economic, social and technical case for renewable energy". The full issue of this edition will be published on 12 April 2007. For more information, see the description and contact information under Spotlight on Solar Outlook at:

<http://www.navigantconsulting.com/A559B1/navigantnew.nsf/fCNTDspEdit?OpenForm&Cat1=LA2&Cat2=LB3&Cat3=LC6> or <http://tinyurl.com/2fetgo>

Attachment (pdf):

[http://www.navigantconsulting.com/A559B1/navigantnew.nsf/vGNCNTByDocKey/PPD8DB6A453629/\\$FILE/PreReleaseSO200707-1vs4.0.pdf](http://www.navigantconsulting.com/A559B1/navigantnew.nsf/vGNCNTByDocKey/PPD8DB6A453629/$FILE/PreReleaseSO200707-1vs4.0.pdf) or <http://tinyurl.com/2kca9f>

3-29-07 PHOTON International March 2007

The March 2007 issue of PHOTON International – the Photovoltaic Magazine, is available [subscription] covering such topics as the "Cell and module production 2006", "Solar electricity for 10 cents per kWh", "Gigawatt factories", the "PV in Europe series: Belgium", "Rural electrification in Indonesia", "Survey on antireflection coating systems", and much more.

Reach PHOTON International at: <http://www.photon-magazine.com/>

3-29-07 Moser Baer PV Investment

Moser Baer has acquired a 40% stake in Solarvalue Proizvodnja d.d., a venture planning to start production of high-quality solar grade silicon from metallurgical silicon. Solarvalue plans to set up a capacity of 4,400 tonnes of solar grade silicon by the end of 2008. More on this story at Solarbuzz:

<http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsASCO101.htm>

Moser Baer PV: <http://www.moserbaerpv.in/>

Solarvalue: http://www.solarvalue.com/content/01_eng_organe.html

3-29-07 Hoku Credit Facility

Hoku Materials announced that Bank of Hawaii is providing Hoku Materials with a credit facility of up to \$13 million. Hoku plans to use these funds to finance, in part, certain expenses related to its polysilicon facility in Idaho. More on this story and Hoku's plans at:

<http://www.marketwatch.com/News/Story/Story.aspx?guid=%7B3CED7982%2D2F87%2D4D8D%2DAEE5%2D064F3BC21E38%7D&siteid=mktw&dist=nbk&symb> or <http://tinyurl.com/2rsovk>

Hoku: <http://www.hokuscientific.com/>

3-29-07 GT Solar \$49M Contract with Nitel Group

GT Solar Incorporated announced it has signed a \$49 million contract to sell polysilicon reactors to the Russian company, Nitel Group. GT Solar's reactors and silicon tetrachloride converters will be installed at Nitel's production facility in Irkutsk, Siberia. Press at:

<http://www.marketwatch.com/News/Story/Story.aspx?guid=%7BCA379AE1%2D4D90%2D4D49%2D8F05%2D5625DC2B5AA2%7D&siteid=mktw&dist=nbk&symb> or <http://tinyurl.com/35n9ws>

GT Solar: <http://www.gtsolar.com/>

Nitel Group: <http://www.nitel.ru/>

3-29-07 EPOD Acquisition of Real Estate Development Firm, Solar Strategy

EPOD International Inc. announced the acquisition of Mill Creek Developments Ltd., a British Columbia-based commercial real-estate development firm. Said Mark Roseborough, President and CEO of the company, "We are very pleased with this acquisition as it will bring the necessary capital to execute on our business strategy of constructing and installing multiple one megawatt turn-key solar power systems for the Ontario, Canada market". Press at:

<http://www.marketwatch.com/News/Story/Story.aspx?guid=%7BA61DB736%2DF6FB%2D4A1C%2DAFA0%2D025A69EBFD58%7D&siteid=mktw&dist=nbk&symb> or <http://tinyurl.com/3boxvv>

EPOD International Inc.: <http://www.epodinc.com/>

3-29-07 Thin-film Solar Cells on Bio-based Substrates

According to this press, by manufacturing thin-film solar cells on a bio-based substrate, BioSolar, Inc. is expecting to leapfrog current bottlenecks in the manufacture and delivery of PV solar cells. Press at:

<http://www.marketwatch.com/News/Story/Story.aspx?guid=%7B9E30B881%2D6A6D%2D4535%2DB9C4%2D439717177965%7D&siteid=mktw&dist=nbk&symb> or <http://tinyurl.com/2bq5ss>

BioSolar™: <http://www.biosolar.com/>

3-29-07 Akeena Solar Results

Akeena Solar, Inc. announced results for the 4th quarter and year ended 31 December 2006. Press at:

<http://www.marketwatch.com/News/Story/Story.aspx?guid=%7BA3871D5A%2D24B4%2D45BB%2DA600%2D8C767F51ED35%7D&siteid=mktw&dist=nbk&symb> or <http://tinyurl.com/2x3us5>

Akeena: <http://www.akeena.net/cm/Home.html>

3-29-07 More on the 11-MW Solar Power Plant, Portugal

See more on the 11-MW solar power plant in Portugal at:

<http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/78D9E194-70AB-44BE-8A57-5CF43161C7CF.htm> or

<http://tinyurl.com/yrbasn>

http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070328/portugal_solar_power_plant.html?.v=1 or <http://tinyurl.com/2c8662>

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20070328/sc_nm/portual_solar_power_dc_1 or <http://tinyurl.com/249j8q>

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17830800/>

Photos: <http://news.yahoo.com/photo/070328/481/xf80203282006> or <http://tinyurl.com/2dqdssz>

<http://news.yahoo.com/photo/070328/481/xf80103282006> or <http://tinyurl.com/2z7a8n>

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17830164/displaymode/1176/rstry/17830800/> or <http://tinyurl.com/yqbm8w>

GE Financial Services: <http://www.ge.com/en/financial/>

<http://www.geenergyfinancialservices.com/SerpaSolarPlant/>

SunPower/PowerLight: <http://www.powerlight.com/>

<http://www.sunpowercorp.com/home.html>

Catavento: <http://www.catavento.pt/>

3-29-07 More on Solar at the AT&T Park, San Francisco, California

For more on the 120-kW PV solar array for AT&T Park in San Francisco, see the story "Summer 2007: Solar Energy Hits Major League" at RenewableEnergyAccess:

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47929>

3-29-07 Mid-Pacific Industries PV, California

Pacific Power Management, LLC, has completed the design and installation of a 45-kW solar electric system for Mid-Pacific Industries in Woodland, California. Story and photo at Solarbuzz:

<http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsNAPR764.htm>

Pacific Power Management: <http://www.pacpower.biz/>

3-29-07 Solar Industry Changes, Summits

Solar technology experts, component manufacturers, distributors and system installers gathered at SMA-sponsored summits in New Jersey and California to analyze industry changes. Coverage at

RenewableEnergyAccess: <http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/partner/story?id=47947> or

<http://tinyurl.com/yrpoe9>

SMA America: <http://www.sma-america.com/>

3-29-07 PSE Green Power Rates, Washington State

Puget Sound Energy received approval from the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to lower the company's residential and commercial electric green power rates by about 40% effective 1 April. Customers will be able to purchase a bigger block of green power, or go totally green under the revised rates. Press at:

<http://www.marketwatch.com/News/Story/Story.aspx?guid=%7B253BF184%2D2CD4%2D446E%2DAE8D%2DE23E4F02302F%7D&siteid=mktw&dist=nbk&symb> or <http://tinyurl.com/2ra47z>

PSE: <http://www.pse.com/>

3-29-07 California Energy Commission Renewable Energy Guidebooks

A notice of availability regarding Renewable Energy Program Guidebooks is on line at:

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/portfolio/notices/index.html>

3-29-07 Solar Legislation

US Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Representatives Dennis Cardoza (D-CA) and Michael Ferguson (R-NJ) introduced legislation that would affirm the right of American consumers to install solar systems on their roofs and receive fair treatment as energy producers. Story at Solarbuzz:

<http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsNAGO325.htm>

RenewableEnergyAccess: <http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/partner/story?id=47928> or

<http://tinyurl.com/29ahl9>

SEIA: <http://www.seia.org/>

3-29-07 Electric Truck Fleet

The City of Richmond, California, and ZAP are launching a pilot program to demonstrate ZAP electric trucks in a city fleet. Press at:

<http://www.marketwatch.com/News/Story/Story.aspx?guid=%7B9C5960F9%2DBE54%2D422C%2D91FA%2D60FB14C32074%7D&siteid=mktw&dist=nbk&symb> or <http://tinyurl.com/2tsgoy>

ZAP: <http://www.zapworld.com/>

3-29-07 IREC Newsletter [Jane Pulaski]

For the latest issue of the Interstate Renewable Energy Council State & Stakeholder Newsletter, with news from IREC Programs, schools going solar, interconnection / net metering, incentives & rebates, national outreach, workforce development, grants / RFPs, upcoming events, and other topics, see:

[http://www.irecusa.org/index.php?id=22&tx_ttnews\[pS\]=1175187305&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=522&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=11&cHash=9ad18888fb](http://www.irecusa.org/index.php?id=22&tx_ttnews[pS]=1175187305&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=522&tx_ttnews[backPid]=11&cHash=9ad18888fb) or <http://tinyurl.com/2s28bh>

<http://www.irecusa.org/index.php?id=11>

3-29-07 Upcoming Events

For information on upcoming conferences, events, and expositions, see examples at a number of Web sites, including:

RenewableEnergyAccess (Featured Events) <http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/home>

Solarbuzz <http://www.solarbuzz.com/InfoCenterUpcoming.htm>

SOLARIS http://www.epia.org/09newsletter/newsletter_new.asp?c_year=2007&c_month=03&c_cat=13 or <http://tinyurl.com/ypnm8l>

PHOTON International <http://www.photon-magazine.com/events/events.aspx> or <http://tinyurl.com/yuj53a>

3-29-07 Green Energy Strategies Report

Reportlinker.com announced that a new market research report, "Green Energy Strategies in European Utilities: Renewable growth, green tariffs and R&D in new technologies", is now available in its catalogue. Press at:

<http://www.marketwatch.com/News/Story/Story.aspx?guid=%7B4482826B%2D1ED4%2D4E65%2DBABD%2D2090E72A9C34%7D&siteid=mktw&dist=nbk&symb> or <http://tinyurl.com/32wxkb>

Report Information: <http://www.reportlinker.com/p046733/green-energy.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/385ehl>

In related solar news...

3-29-07 CCID Consulting Review, Solar Water Heaters

CCID Consulting reports that entering the 21st century, China's solar water heaters market has been growing fast. More on this story at:

<http://www.marketwatch.com/News/Story/Story.aspx?guid=%7BF03F045F%2DB8BC%2D4902%2D93E6%2D76893912EF5A%7D&siteid=mktw&dist=nbk&symb> or <http://tinyurl.com/32dmhb>

CCID Consulting: <http://www.ccidconsulting.com/default%5fe.asp>

3-30-07 Solar EnerTech Polysilicon Supply

Solar EnerTech Corp. announced the signing of a 10-year polysilicon supply contract with Jiangsu Photovoltaic Industry Development Co., Ltd. of China. Press at:

<http://www.marketwatch.com/News/Story/Story.aspx?guid=%7BDE91ADF5%2D531E%2D4AFB%2D93FE%2D99C318AE91CF%7D&siteid=mktw&dist=nbk&symb> or <http://tinyurl.com/2kx95w>

<http://www.solarenertech.com/>

3-30-07 JA Solar Results

JA Solar Holdings Co., Ltd. reported financial results for the 4th quarter and year ended 31 December 2006. Press at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsASCO102.htm>

JA Solar: <http://www.jasolar.com/>

3-30-07 Sunways Results

Sunways AG reported fiscal year 2006 results. Press at Solarbuzz:

<http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsEU386.htm>

Sunways: <http://www.sunways.de/de/>

3-30-07 Conergy Annual Report 2006

Conergy AG published its Annual Report 2006 and presented plans for its growth. Press from Conergy:

http://www.conergy.de/en/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=182/271_read-7066/ or <http://tinyurl.com/3d4bcp>

3-30-07 Solar in Germany

See the story "Solar valley' in a cloudy land" including coverage of Conergy's factory in Frankfurt an der Oder, Germany at: <http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/03/30/news/wbsolar.php>

3-30-07 Arizona State University Part of SAI

Arizona State University is partnering with two companies that received grants from the U.S. Department of Energy under the Solar America Initiative. See the story at: http://www.aer-online.com/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.393 or <http://tinyurl.com/2h487u>
Solar America Initiative: http://www.eere.energy.gov/solar/solar_america/
http://www.eere.energy.gov/solar/solar_america/sai_press_release_030807.html or <http://tinyurl.com/yspsjj>

3-30-07 Press Conference on New Study on Photovoltaics

The cost of solar electricity will be able to compete with electricity coming from new lignite coal power plants by 2010 according to a new study "True Cost of Solar Power: 10 Cents/kWh by 2010", from a team of analysts led by PHOTON Consulting's Michael Rogol, Managing Director. A press conference on this study with Michael Rogol as Speaker and Michael Schmela, Editor-in-Chief, PHOTON International as moderator (4 April 2007, 12:45- 1:15 pm, at the M,O,C, Trade Fair Munich International) is the main media event for the "Photovoltaic Technology Show 2007 Europe" and its 3 international solar conferences taking place in Munich from 3-5 April: <http://www.photon-expo.com/en/index.htm>
http://www.photon-expo.com/sp/pts_2007_europe/ssc_2007_program.htm or <http://tinyurl.com/2qu9zf>
For the press conference information and confirmation/registration, contact bernd.schuessler@solar-verlag.de

3-30-07 PV Activities in Japan

The March 2007 issue of "PV Activities in Japan" is available [by subscription] with coverage of the dissemination framework for PV systems in Japan, government, local government, supplier and users activities, new PV systems including photos, and other information. Osamu Ikki, RTS Corporation, Tokyo, ikki@rts-pv.com

3-30-07 Alternate Energy Holdings Acquisitions

Alternate Energy Holdings, Inc. announced the beginning of its acquisitions talks with several small energy companies as part of its short-term growth strategy. Working on the supply and demand side of energy, AEHI's current candidates for acquisition are Freedom Energy Solutions LLC and Switch LLC. Both companies focus on custom designing energy solutions using a combination of clean energy sources such as solar, wind, geothermal and power management for individual client's needs. More at: <http://www.marketwatch.com/News/Story/Story.aspx?guid=%7BEF377D4D%2DA984%2D4DF7%2DBF57%2D3661D6F63DCE%7D&siteid=mktw&dist=nbk&symb> or <http://tinyurl.com/37n7j9>
Alternate Energy Holdings: <http://www.alternateenergyholdings.com/>

3-30-07 Solar Cell Production Equipment Market

According to this article, the total market for commercial solar cell production equipment will grow from revenues of \$1.2 billion in 2006 to \$4.5 billion in 2010. See the story "Solar gear market shines" at: http://www.eetimes.com/news/semi/rss/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=198701402&cid=RSSfeed_eetimes_s
emiRSS or <http://tinyurl.com/2gdx4>

3-30-07 California Solar Initiative Program Forum

On 2 April, the California Solar Initiative Program Forum will meet at the PG&E Auditorium to offer a public venue for interested parties to identify and discuss the highest priority issues related to the administration and implementation of the California Public Utilities Commission's portion of the CSI program, plus suggest consensus-based revisions to the CSI Program Handbook. Information at RenewableEnergyAccess: <http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47955> and http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/static/energy/solar/070402_csiforum.htm
RenewableEnergyAccess Podcast on the California Solar Initiative: <http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/podcast?id=47932> or <http://tinyurl.com/ygro2k>
Go Solar California!: <http://www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov/>

3-30-07 ISES Solar World Congress

For information on the ISES Solar World Congress 2007, 18-21 September in Beijing, China, see RenewableEnergyAccess at: <http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/events/view?id=44716>
Conference Website:

<http://www.ises.org/ISES.nsf/5c990687ba31ff01c12568b3004ef917/923deb7994fe1394c1257124004330ed!OpenDocument> or <http://tinyurl.com/37ktfq>

3-30-07 The Orange Puffball Sponge and PV

See the article on sea sponge solar at: <http://www.upi.com/Energy/view.php?StoryID=20070328-023206-1075r> or <http://tinyurl.com/2yheke>
http://www.mbayaq.org/efc/living_species/print.asp?inhab=505